RELIGION

Religion is belief in and worship of a supernatural controlling power. Religion as used to name a discipline is the discipline that studies the relationship with God.

New philosophies and religions arose in both east and west, particularly around the 6th century BC. Over time, a great variety of religions developed around the world, with Hinduism, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism in India, Zoroastrianism in Persia being some of the earliest major faiths. In the east, three schools of thought were to dominate Chinese thinking until the modern day. These were Taoism, Legalism and Confucianism. The Confucian tradition, which would attain predominance, looked not to the force of law, but to the power and example of tradition for political morality. In the west, the Greek philosophical tradition represented by the works of Plato and Aristotle, was diffuse through Europe and the Middle East by the conquests of Alexander of Macedon in the 4th century.

Abrahamic religions are those religions deriving from a common ancient tradition and traced by their adherent to Abraham (circa 1900BCE), a patriarch whose life is narrated in the Hebrew Bible (Old testament), where he is described as a prophet (Genesis 20:7) and in the Quran, where he also appears as a prophet. This forms a large group of related

largely monotheist religions, generally held to include Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and comprises over half of the world's religious adherents.